

NW RAC 101

Dec. 6, 2018

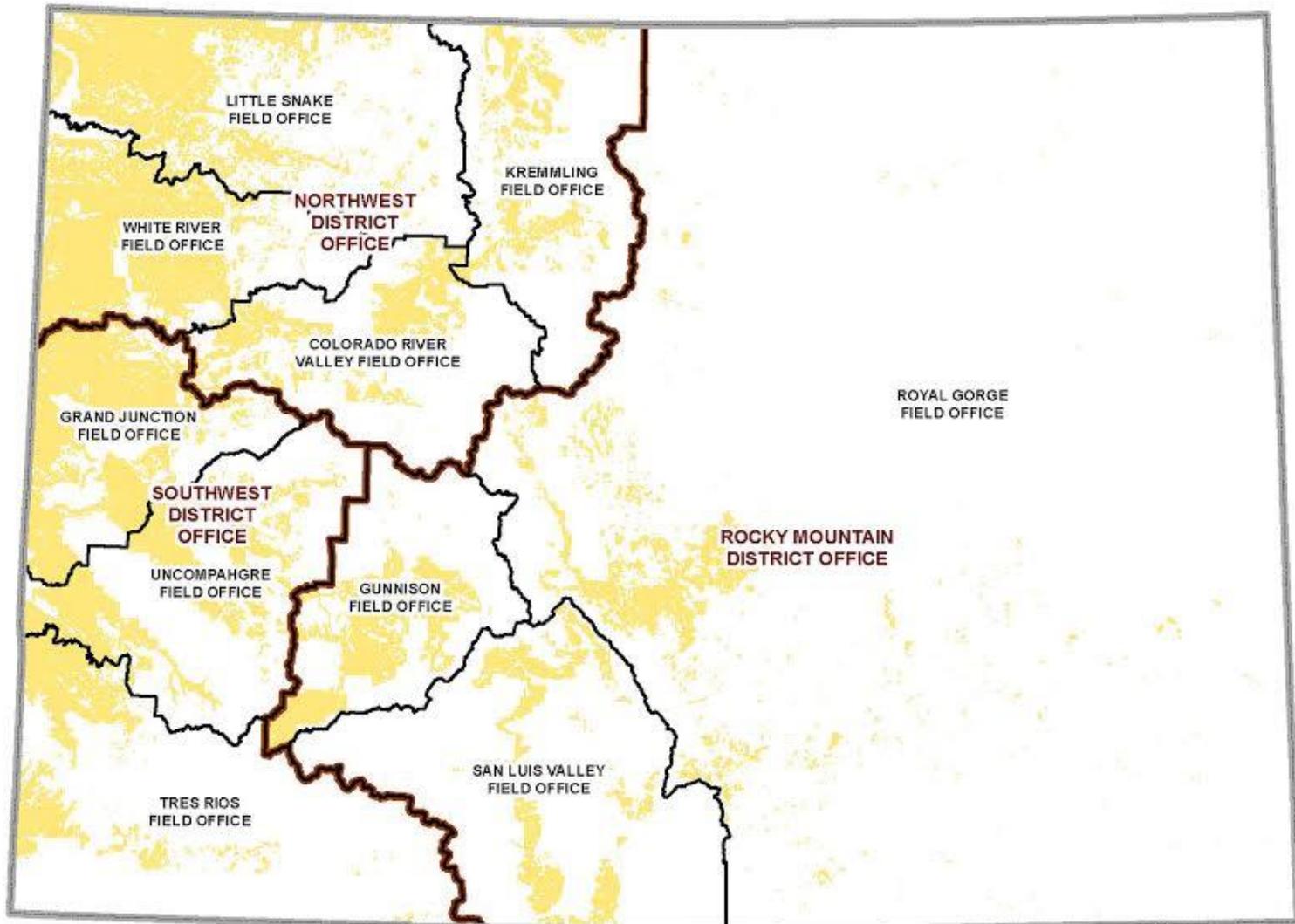
BLM RAC history

- ▣ Formed in 1995 as a way for BLM to formally get advice from stakeholders from a wide variety of interests





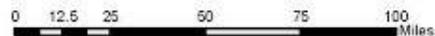
* Alaska RAC covers entire state



-  BLM Field Office Areas
-  BLM District Office Areas
-  State Boundary
-  Bureau of Land Management

BLM Colorado District Realignment

Date: 7/20/2016



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Objective from the regulations

- “Make available to DOI and BLM *the expert counsel of concerned, knowledgeable citizens and public officials* regarding both the formulation of operating guidelines and the preparation and execution of plans and programs for the use and management of (BLM) public lands, their natural and cultural resources, and the environment.”



FACA-chartered

- ▣ FACA provides legal framework for a federal agency to form an advisory group



BLM RAC Composition

- ▣ **Category 1 – Grazing permittees, energy interests, OHV interests**
- ▣ **Category 2 – Environmental, wild horse and burro, dispersed recreation, cultural/historical**
- ▣ **Category 3 – Elected officials (required), State government, public-at-large**

Charter

- ▣ The Council provides advice to the Secretary of the Interior through the Designated Federal Officer



Advice

- ▣ Formal advice – resolutions, letters, etc. requiring a vote
- ▣ Informal advice – discussions of the group at meetings



Formal votes

- ▣ Quorum – Three from each category must be present
- ▣ Three from each category must vote yes to refer to DFO, who forwards to Secretary through BLM
- ▣ Handout

Unanimous vote

- ▣ When RAC feels its advice is being arbitrarily disregarded, the council may request that the Secretary respond directly.
- ▣ Such a request can only be made upon the agreement of all council members

Resolution procedure

- ▣ See handout
- ▣ Not in charter – this was developed by NW RAC
- ▣ Goal is to give time for members and the public to fully consider resolutions

Recreation Enhancement Act role

- ▣ Assumed “Recreation RAC” responsibilities for BLM Feb 2011, reaffirmed May 2012
- ▣ Review and vote on recreation fee proposals for NW District Field Offices

Recreation Enhancement Act role

- ▣ 18 Road Campground, new fees Dec 2011
- ▣ Ruby-Horsethief Colorado River, new camp fees Dec 2011
- ▣ Upper Colorado River fee adjustments March 2012

Agenda

- ▣ DFO sets agenda and meeting locations
- ▣ Close coordination with RAC and RAC chair



Public involvement

- ▣ NW RAC meetings are open to the public
- ▣ Must be announced in Federal Register and through local media
- ▣ Public has opportunity to address NW RAC about issues during specific comment periods

Communication

- ▣ Results in increased communication
- ▣ RAC members share with their groups
- ▣ Members can comment as individuals
- ▣ Good opportunity for public to keep up with issues



Success stories

- ▣ NW RAC long-recognized as an active, effective RAC
- ▣ Passionate, diverse members who have worked well together



Field Trips



- ▣ See issues first hand

- ▣ Be outside!

Field Trips

- ▣ Interact with BLM specialists



Field Trips

- ▣ Great way to get to know one another



RAC Dinners



- ▣ NW RAC first to do
- ▣ Opportunity to get to informally get to know one another
- ▣ Warm up for meeting

Active participation from managers



Specific Formal Advice

RESOLUTIONS

- ▣ Roan Plateau
 - 2005
 - 2013
- ▣ Recreation fee areas
- ▣ North Sand Hills
- ▣ Social science
- ▣ National Fire Policy
- ▣ Wild Horses (several)

LETTERS

- ▣ Camping rule
- ▣ Rec RAC letter
- ▣ Wild horses

Formal sub-groups

- ▣ **White River Field Office Travel Management**
- ▣ **RMPs – CRVFO, KFO, WRFO, GJFO**

Informal advice examples

- ▣ Upper Colorado River Fee Adjustment
- ▣ Transwest
- ▣ CRVFO cave management
- ▣ Sage Grouse
- ▣ Upper Colorado River RAMP

Reporting requirements

- ▣ Department of the Interior now requires a summary of actions taken by RACs after each meeting
- ▣ Any requests related to the RACs (nominations, meeting dates) also require a justification memo
- ▣ DOI wants to ensure RACs and FACA groups are functional and relevant

Discussion

- ▣ Examples from Field Managers? RAC Members?

